

Thoughts on the Daily Word

13th Week of Year. Thursday 3rd July. Readings: Genesis 22:1-19; Psalm:114; Matthew 9:1-8.

Abraham has lost his son to Hagar and now this strange and unpredictable God, who has led him from his homeland, now wants him to sacrifice his son with Sarah. Perhaps Abraham thinks that this God is like the local gods who demand terrible human sacrifices. So many of our human gods demand sacrifices, just think of fascism and communism, to say nothing of many god-like tyrants in our world. But even we in the democratic world sacrifice many to the gods of money, sex and power. Abraham's God challenges him but in the story this God does not desire human sacrifice. So, will the pattern begin throughout the Scripture right up until we see Jesus sacrificed on Calvary even by those who follow the Abrahamic God. The tension between human sacrifice and the call of God to see the divine presence in each scrap of humanity. Our Gospel today sees that dignity of human nature revealed when this poor man is set free to walk. Free from paralysis and free from sin.